

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 17-22, 24-29, 31, 32, 34 and 35 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendments. For example, claims 7, 17 and 24 have been amended to recite the subject matter of previously pending claim 33. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants have attached hereto a marked up version of the claims to show the changes made for the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the following remarks Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-12, 17-21, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Czekai '331 or Czekai '705. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Czekai '331 and Czekai '705 references fail to suggest or disclose that the solid fine-grain dispersion has a content of solid fine-grains in the range of 3-60 wt% as recited in previously pending claim 33. Applicants submit that each of independent claims 7, 17 and 24 have been amended to recite this subject matter. Accordingly,

claims 7, 17 and 24 as well as the claims which depend thereon are neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious over Czekai '331 or Czekai '705. Notably, at page 5, subparagraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-6 and 31-35 are allowed over the prior art of record. The subject matter of claim 33 is thus allowable. Accordingly, claims 7-12, 17-21 and 24-28 are now likewise allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

**Issues Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 13-16, 22-23, and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Czekai '331 and Czekai '705 in view of Lobo. The Examiner has also rejected claims 12, 21 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Czekai '331 and Czekai '705 in view of Scaringe. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 12-16, 21-23 and 28-30 depend upon one of independent claims 7, 17 and 24. As indicated above, each of these independent claims now recite the subject matter of previously pending claim 33, which claim 33 was indicated as allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, each of the Examiner's rejections outlined above is

moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

In the outstanding Office Action on page 5, subparagraph 6, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-6 and 31-35 are allowed over the prior art of record. Applicants further submit that the view of the present submission, claims 7-13, 17-22 and 24-29 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all currently pending claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Craig A. McRobbie, Reg. No. 42,874, at the Offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to August 13, 2002 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$920.00 is enclosed with the Notice of Appeal being filed concurrently herewith.

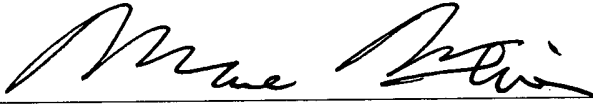
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;  
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 33 has been cancelled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

7. (Twice Amended) A photographic solid fine-grain dispersion, which is obtained by a preparation method comprising the steps of:

successively bringing a slurry of a water-insoluble photographically useful compound in a grinding chamber of a dispersing machine, which chamber is filled with media,

allowing the compound to contact the media in the grinding chamber, to produce fine grains of the compound successively,

successively separating the media from the compound by centrifugal force, and

taking the compound out of the grinding chamber,

wherein the bulk density of the media is  $4.0 \text{ g/cm}^3$  or more, the Vickers hardness thereof is 10 GPa or more, the breaking tenacity thereof is  $5 \text{ MPa}\cdot\text{m}^{1/2}$  or more, and the average grain size thereof is 0.3 mm or less, [and]

wherein the fine grains in the solid dispersion prepared have an average grain size of  $0.01 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , and

wherein said solid fine-grain dispersion has a content of solid fine-grains in the range of 3-60 wt%.

17. (Twice Amended) A coating composition for a silver halide photographic light-sensitive material, which composition comprises a photographic solid fine-grain dispersion that is obtained by a preparation method comprising the steps of:

successively bringing a slurry of a water-insoluble photographically useful compound in a grinding chamber of a dispersing machine, which chamber is filled with media,

allowing the compound to contact the media in the grinding chamber, to produce fine grains of the compound successively,

successively separating the media from the compound by centrifugal force, and

taking the compound out of the grinding chamber,

wherein the bulk density of the media is  $4.0 \text{ g/cm}^3$  or more, the Vickers hardness thereof is 10 GPa or more, the breaking tenacity thereof is  $5 \text{ MPa} \cdot \text{m}^{1/2}$  or more, and the average grain size thereof is 0.3 mm or less, [and]

wherein the fine grains in the solid dispersion prepared have an average grain size of  $0.01 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$  to  $1 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ , and

wherein said solid fine-grain dispersion has a content of solid fine-grains in the range of 3-60 wt%.

24. (Amended) A silver halide photographic light-sensitive material having at least one light-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer on a support, which comprises a photographic solid fine-grain dispersion which is obtained by a preparation method comprising the steps of:

successively bringing a slurry of a water-insoluble photographically useful compound in a grinding chamber of a dispersing machine, which chamber is filled with media,

allowing the compound to contact the media in the grinding chamber, to produce fine grains of the compound successively,

successively separating the media from the compound by centrifugal force, and

taking the compound out of the grinding chamber,

wherein the bulk density of the media is  $4.0 \text{ g/cm}^3$  or more, the Vickers hardness thereof is 10 GPa or more, the breaking tenacity thereof is  $5 \text{ MPa} \cdot \text{m}^{1/2}$  or more, and the average grain size thereof is 0.3 mm or less, and

wherein said solid fine-grain dispersion has a content of solid fine-grains in the range of 3-60 wt%.